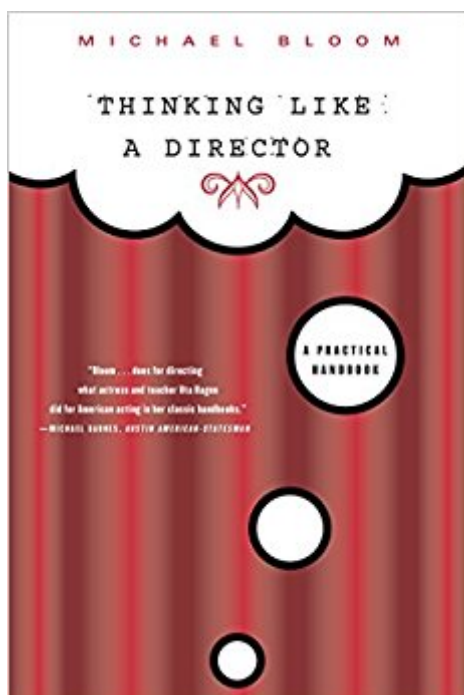


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# Thinking Like A Director: A Practical Handbook



## Synopsis

Bloom draws on nearly twenty years of directing and teaching experience to convey the full experience of directing for the stage, as well as the mindset that all successful directors possess. More than a mere set of guidelines, *Thinking Like a Director* details a technique that covers every facet of theatrical production, from first reading through final rehearsals. The key to directorial thinking, Bloom asserts, is a dual perspective--an ability to focus on both the internal lives of the play's characters and the external elements of the play's structure. In this illuminating, engaging, and accessible handbook, the art of dramatic interpretation and the craft of working with actors are integrated into a single, unified method.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“More engaging than a textbook, *Thinking Like a Director* is a concise and highly practical guide to the craft. It's a required reading for young stage and film directors, students, and anyone who wants to know what a skillful professional director does.”  
— Gilbert Gates, Producing Director of the Geffen Playhouse and Producer of the Academy Awards

“It's rare for a ‘how-to’ book to be at the same time so practical and so literate.”  
— Robert Brustein, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theatre

“*Thinking Like a Director* helps fill the void of practical handbooks that are available to theater directors. It is smart and lucidly written and should prove to be an invaluable guidebook for students and emerging directors.”  
— Donald Margulies  
“Bloom's deeply instructional and encouraging primer takes the mystery out of the art of directing without taking out

the joy. I've never seen anything quite like it. — Mariette Hartley — “A lucid, concise, and admirably undogmatic manual for aspirant directors, from which writers, actors, and ordinary theatergoers will also learn much about the complex business of putting on plays. — David Lodge — “With a relaxed, informal style, *Thinking Like a Director* captures the experience of stage directing as well as any book I can think of. Its section on working with living playwrights is a welcome addition to the literature, useful to playwrights as much as directors, and Bloom's writing on language will be highly informative for actors, too. — Arthur Kopit — “I very much enjoyed Michael Bloom's *Thinking Like a Director*. A taste for directing is like a taste for pickled herring--those that like it seem to like it a lot. For those who've tried it and liked it, I think this book has some pretty good ideas. — David Mamet

In addition to directing throughout the United States and Japan, Michael Bloom is head of directing at the University of Texas at Austin. His writing on the stage has appeared in *The New York Times* and *American Theatre* magazine. Bloom directed the premiere of Donald Margulies's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Dinner with Friends* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and he also directed premieres by Don DeLillo, Ariel Dorfman, David Hare, and David Lodge. He won the Elliott Norton Award for Directing for his production of *Gross Indecency*, and was nominated for a Drama Desk for *Sight Unseen* at Manhattan Theatre Club and the Orpheum Theatre. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Very good for those new to directing.

Purchased for my daughter-an aspiring Playwright.

Great book for those who want to see inside the mind of a director. Good supplement for other directing manuals as well. Used often as a textbook for directing classes.

A great book for beginners

As a director this was very valuable.

Easy to read and easy to apply information for beginning directors. I use it to teach my beginning directing class and it makes concepts readily accessible.

I've read about a dozen books on directing, and this is my favorite because it gets to the essence of what a director must do to bring out the most from a script and the actors. Sure, other books are breezier, but if you're serious about creating a great play, reading this book should be Job One, especially if you're not dealing with top-of-the-line professional actors. Yes, Bill Ball's book gives you a great sense of the kind of persona that works well as a director but his largely "less-is-more" advice works far better with the top actors he directed at American Conservatory Theatre than the solid but not magnificent actors that serious community theatre directors like myself work with.

This is another good book in our resource library! As a local community theatre group we have to provide our own training and this will come in handy for future directors!

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